

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

---

Humanitarian Partnership  
Conference 2015  
Nairobi, Kenya

AUTHORS:  
Alexandra Spencer

DATE:  
September 2015

---

## Contents

Introduction .....	3
Global trends.....	3
Who was affected? .....	4
How much was given? .....	5
Where does it go? .....	5
Where does it come from? .....	6
How does it get there?.....	8
Funding to NGOs.....	8
Humanitarian pooled funding.....	9
What other finance matters?.....	10
Annex 1: East and Central African countries .....	12

# Humanitarian assistance to East and Central Africa

---

## Introduction

This paper is a supplement to the [Global Humanitarian Assistance \(GHA\) Report 2015](#) and was produced for the Humanitarian Partnership Conference in Nairobi, Kenya on 15–17 September 2015. It draws on the key questions in the report, providing key facts and figures with a focus on East and Central Africa to inform discussions at the Conference and in other forums.

Humanitarian financing is in the spotlight now as never before. This is due to the urgent challenge of meeting the wide and multidimensional needs of more people affected by crises, as well as the current opportunities to find solutions in the form of the 2015 and 2016 global processes, including the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing.

Crises in the Middle East (Syria and Iraq), disasters caused by natural hazards in Asia, and Ebola in West Africa have recently dominated the international headlines. This paper looks at the numbers behind what has happened with often less reported but ongoing humanitarian needs and funding in East and Central Africa.

## Global trends

In 2014, donors responded to a rise in humanitarian needs globally with an increased volume of international humanitarian assistance for the second year running, reaching a record high of US\$24.5 billion. This was an increase of nearly a fifth (19%) from the previous high of US\$20.5 billion in 2013. This figure comprised reported contributions from government donors and European Union institutions, as well as contributions from non-state (private) donors. Funding from both groups increased between 2013 and 2014 – private assistance by nearly 8% to US\$5.8 billion and assistance from governments and EU institutions by almost 24% to US\$18.7 billion.

Requirements for UN-coordinated appeals have grown year-on-year for the past four years, reaching an unprecedented US\$19.5 billion in 2014, compared with US\$13.2 billion in 2013. This increase in requirements was driven largely by ongoing crises in Syria and South Sudan, and by new large-scale crises in Iraq and in West Africa due to the Ebola virus outbreak.

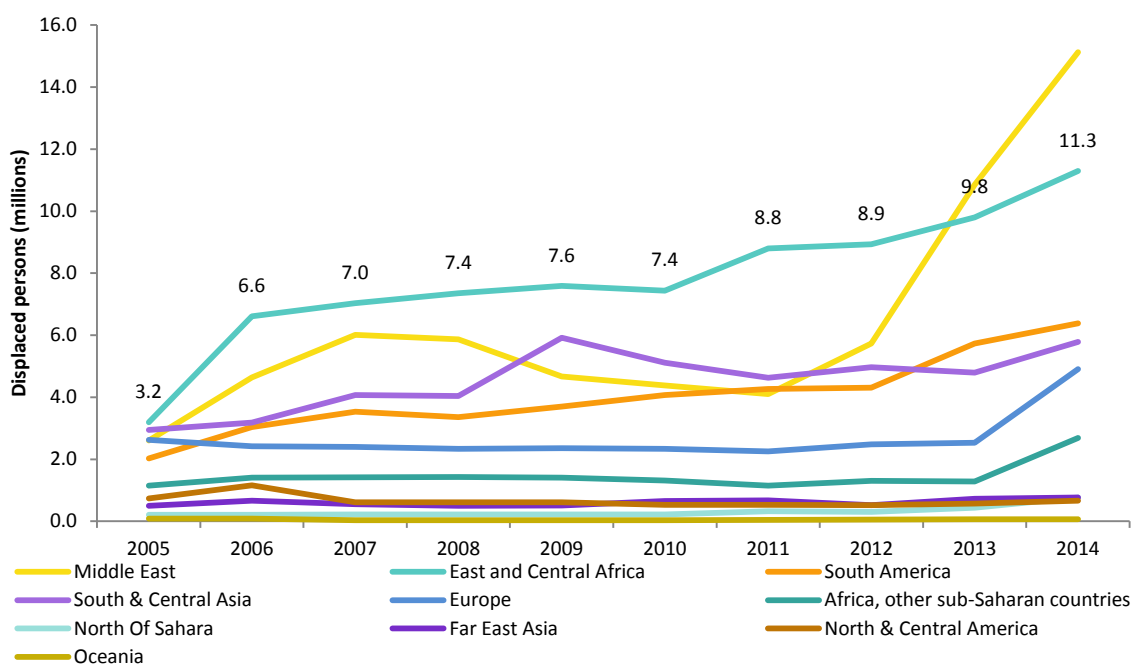
In response to the record request for funding through UN-coordinated appeals in 2014, donors reported US\$12 billion of international humanitarian assistance. This was the highest level of funding through appeals to date, and an increase of over 41% from the previous year. However, it was still insufficient to meet growing humanitarian needs: just 62% of requirements set out in UN-coordinated appeals were met in 2014, a drop from 65% in 2013 and below the average of 65% over the decade between 2005 and 2014.

## Who was affected?

There is no exact data on how many people were affected by crisis and where: many people go unreached and uncounted, situations change rapidly and population data is often lacking in the most crisis-prone settings. However, global figures indicate that over 59.5 million people<sup>i</sup> – the highest number on record – had been forced to flee from violence and persecution by the end of 2014, while an estimated 107.3 million people<sup>ii</sup> were affected by disasters caused by natural hazards.

Sub-Saharan Africa has long hosted the largest numbers of displaced persons, and over the past decade 84% of displaced people in this region were living in East and Central Africa. In fact, from 2005 to 2012, there were more displaced people in East and Central Africa than in any other region of the world, driven largely by conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan and Somalia. However, by 2013 for the first time the number of people displaced in the Middle East region was higher than in East and Central Africa, largely due to the crises in Syria and Iraq.

**Figure 1: Number of displaced persons by region, 2005-2014**



Source: Development Initiatives based on UNHCR data.

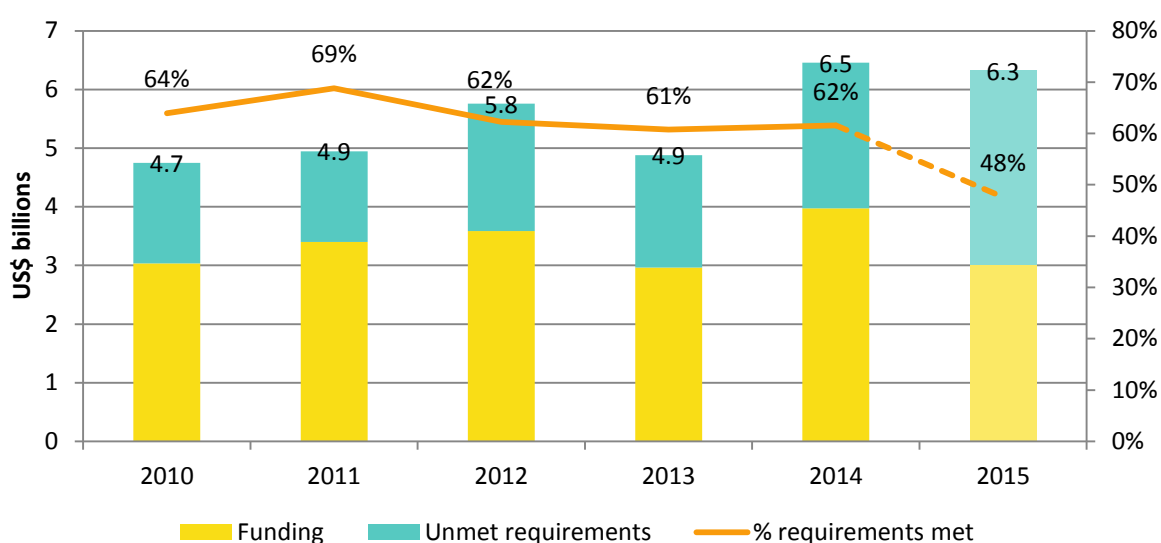
Notes: 'Displaced persons' includes refugees and people in refugee-like situations, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers. IDP numbers include only those persons protected/assisted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Data are organised according to UNHCR's definitions of country/territory of asylum. Countries are organised according to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC)'s classifications of regions. For the sub-Saharan Africa breakdown (East and Central Africa and other sub-Saharan Africa), see Annex 1.

The number of people affected by natural hazards in East and Central Africa is more volatile than the number of people living in displacement. Varying year-on-year, it has ranged from 1.8 million people in 2013 to 17.1 million in 2008, when over 16.7 million people were affected by drought in the region.

## How much was given?

The UN-coordinated appeals represent the largest collective request for international humanitarian assistance. In 2014, of a total of 31 UN-coordinated appeals, eight were for countries in East and Central Africa with requirements totalling US\$6.5 billion. This represented a third (33%) of total global requirements in 2014, and the region accounted for almost a quarter (24%) of all global requirements over the five-year period between 2010 and 2014. In 2014, 62% of requirements (US\$4 billion) were met for countries in East and Central Africa. By mid-2015, requirements for the region had decreased marginally to US\$6.3 billion (though this figure is likely to increase by the end of the year), with US\$3 billion (48%) of requirements met so far this year.

**Figure 2: Funding and unmet requirements in UN-coordinated appeals, East and Central Africa 2010-2015**



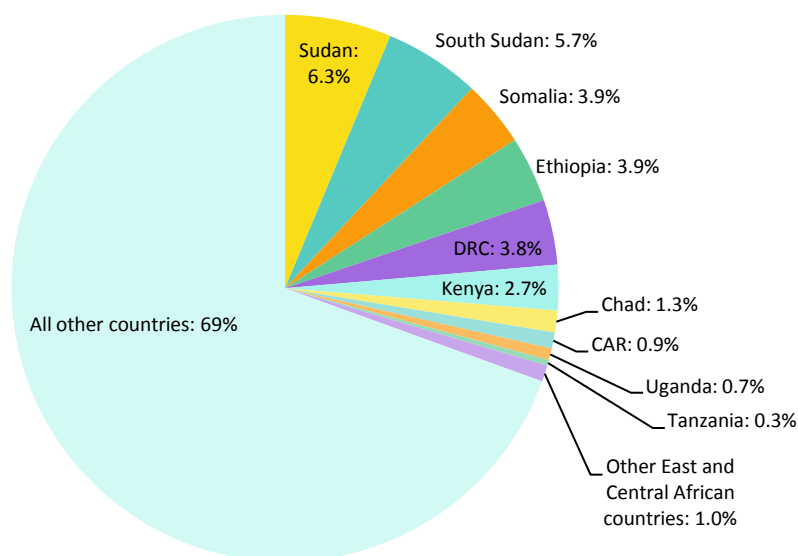
Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data.

Note: 2015 data (both requirements and funding) is subject to change. Data downloaded July 2015.

## Where does it go?

In 2013 countries in East and Central Africa received 31% of total international humanitarian assistance (i.e. funding from governments and private donors, as calculated by GHA – see [GHA Report 2015](#)); this represented a decrease from 37% in 2012 and 35% in 2011. There was an 8% reduction in humanitarian assistance to East and Central Africa between 2012 and 2013, with funding falling from US\$3.9 billion in 2012 to US\$3.6 billion in 2013, the latest year for which the most comprehensive country-specific data is available.

**Figure 3: International humanitarian assistance by country, 2013**



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC and UN OCHA FTS data. Data in constant 2013 prices. Note: Other East African countries include Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea and Rwanda. Proportions are of the total country-allocable humanitarian assistance in 2013.

Sudan, a country that has consistently featured amongst the 10 largest recipients of humanitarian assistance in the world every year since 2004, received the largest share of assistance to East and Central Africa in 2013 (US\$736 million), followed by South Sudan (US\$664 million) and Somalia (US\$458 million). Levels of funding to Sudan had fallen for the previous four consecutive years, but rose from 2012 to 2013 with a proportional increase of 65%.

Only four other countries in the region – the Central African Republic (CAR), Djibouti, Rwanda and Uganda – received more international humanitarian assistance in 2013 than in 2012. CAR experienced a proportional increase of 60%, followed by Djibouti (21%), Rwanda (16%) and Uganda (2%).

All other countries in the region saw a decline in funding levels from 2012 to 2013. Funding to Chad halved, whilst Kenya, South Sudan and Somalia’s funding all fell by between 22 and 24%. South Sudan received US\$210 million less in 2013 than in 2012, the largest volume decrease, but it still remained the second largest recipient country in the region, and the fourth largest recipient globally.

### Where does it come from?

Between 2009 and 2013, the United States was the largest donor to East and Central Africa, providing US\$7.1 billion. Of this funding, 61% was channelled to Sudan, Ethiopia and South Sudan alone. The five largest donors – governments and EU institutions – gave 78% of total international humanitarian assistance to the region in this period (see Table 1).

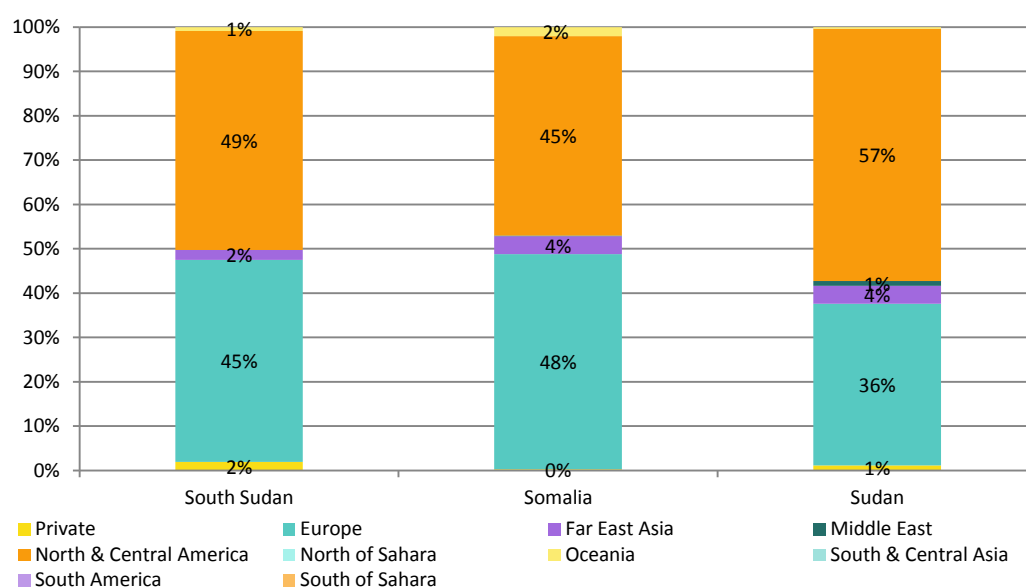
**Table 1: Top donors to East and Central Africa, 2009-2013 (US\$ millions)**

Donor	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009-2013
<b>US</b>	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2	7.1
<b>EU institutions</b>	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	2.7
<b>UK</b>	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.9
<b>Sweden</b>	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8
<b>Canada</b>	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7

Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC CRS. Data in constant 2013 prices

Reflecting the fact that they provide the largest share of total international humanitarian assistance, North American and European donors responded with significant shares to each of the three largest recipient countries of humanitarian assistance in the region in 2014 – South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan (see Figure 4). North American donors (primarily the US) provided the largest share of assistance to both Sudan and South Sudan (57% and 49% respectively) and European donors provided the largest share of assistance to Somalia (48%). Far East Asia is the only other region that makes notable contributions to these three countries, providing 4% of total received funds to Somalia and Sudan but only 2% of funds to South Sudan.

**Figure 4: Funding by donor region to South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan, 2014**



Source:

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data in constant 2013 prices.

Note: Data downloaded April 2015.

These three conflict-affected states also received relatively low levels of humanitarian assistance from private donors in comparison with funding from governments, despite receiving some of the largest volumes of funding globally. This reflects the general trend that disasters caused by natural hazards tend to attract more private funding than conflicts. Of the three countries, South Sudan received the largest proportion of humanitarian assistance from private donors in 2014, at 2%.

## How does it get there?

How humanitarian assistance gets from donors to crisis-affected people matters. It is rarely a direct transaction: funding moves from a donor to a 'first recipient' agency or mechanism and then sometimes through several further levels before it materialises in the form of goods, services or cash for crisis-affected people. The timeliness, cost-effectiveness and appropriateness of response are affected by these 'channels of delivery' choices as well as by the length and nature of the various transaction chains.

Globally, and in the East and Central African region, the majority of international humanitarian assistance is channelled in the first instance via multilateral organisations, primarily UN agencies with a humanitarian remit. This section focuses on two 'channels of delivery' which currently are the subject of considerable discussion: funding to NGOs and funding via humanitarian pooled funds.

### Funding to NGOs

In 2014, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) directly received 21% of total funding reported to UN OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) for East and Central African countries. It is likely that they received significantly more indirectly, in the form of sub-grants from international agencies, but the data does not reveal how much this amounted to.

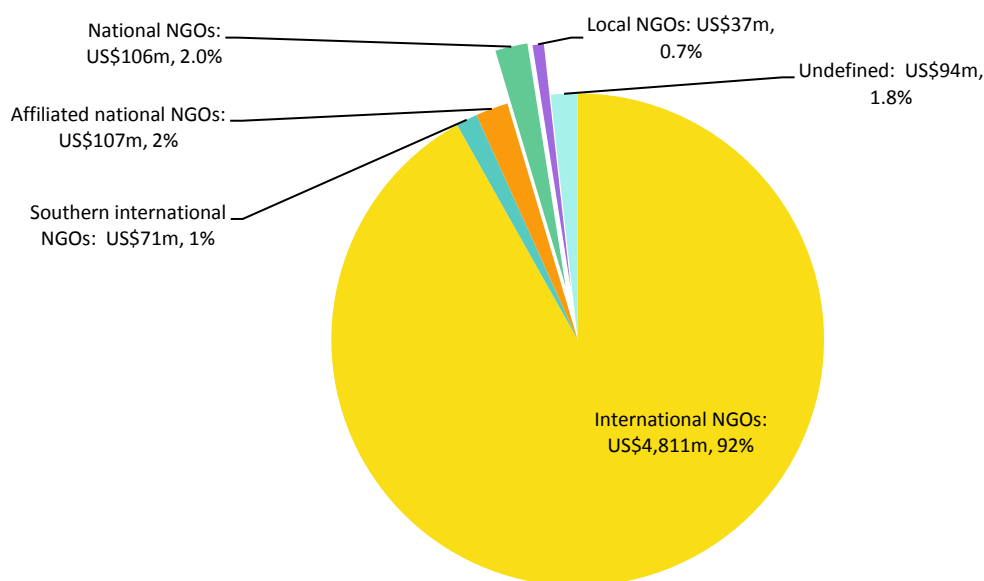
Despite funding to East and Central Africa falling between 2012 and 2013, the amount directly received by all types of NGOs<sup>iii</sup> increased from US\$0.9 billion in 2012 to US\$1.0 billion in 2013 and continued to increase to almost US\$1.2 billion in 2014. International NGOs were the largest recipients of NGO funding between 2010 and 2014, receiving 92% of the total channelled to NGOs in East and Central Africa.

It has long been recognised that local and national NGOs can play an enormous role in preventing, preparing for and responding to humanitarian emergencies as well as building resilience to shocks and crisis.<sup>iv</sup> Between 2010 and 2014, local and national NGOs in East and Central Africa directly received US\$142 million – 2.9% of the total given to NGOs and 0.6% of the total humanitarian assistance to the region. These proportions, though still low, are higher than the global averages (1.2% of the total given to NGOs and just 0.2% of global humanitarian assistance in 2014), suggesting that there is a greater tendency to channel funds to local and national NGOs in the first instance in the region, particularly in countries where international NGOs experience access constraints. For example, local and national NGOs in Somalia received US\$44.7 million between 2010 and 2014, followed by local and national NGOs in the DRC and Sudan, which received US\$29.4 million and US\$26.7 million respectively.

The number of local and national NGOs based in East and Central Africa receiving humanitarian assistance reported to the UN OCHA FTS fluctuated over the 2010–2014 period, from 34 in 2010 to as many as 57 in both 2011 and 2013.



**Figure 5: First-level funding to NGOs in East and Central Africa by type, 2010–2014**



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data in constant 2013 prices.  
 Notes: For NGO classifications, see p.133 of the [GHA Report 2015](#). Data downloaded April 2015.

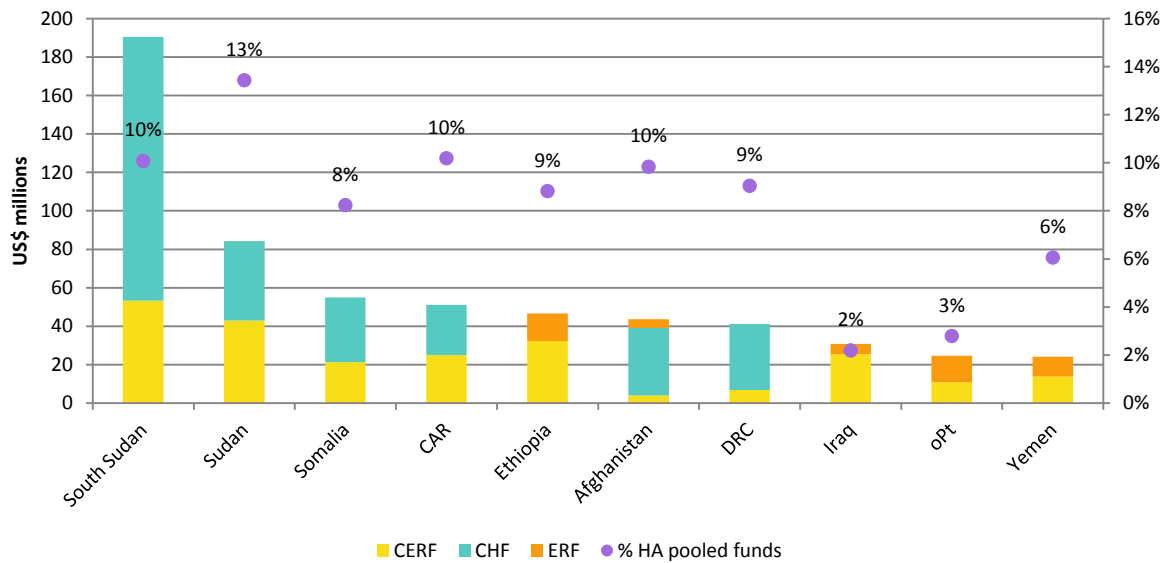
### Humanitarian pooled funding

Pooled funds are important mechanisms for rapid response and gap-filling at the global and country levels. They can help to counter-balance bilateral donor preferences and respond to changing needs and can also provide a trusted channel in contexts where donors lack capacity to directly manage grants. The UN managed humanitarian pooled funds – the global Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the country-based emergency response funds (ERFs) and common humanitarian funds (CHF) – received US\$1.1 billion globally in 2014, 4.4% of the total humanitarian response that year.

However, humanitarian pooled funding is concentrated in a relatively small number of countries, with the five largest recipients receiving 50% of all such funding in 2014. These recipients were South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, CAR and Ethiopia, reflecting the fact that the region is home to some of the first and largest country-based pooled funds. In 2014, South Sudan received 22% of global pooled funding (mostly from the CHF); at US\$190 million, this was a tenth of all humanitarian assistance to the country that year. Sudan, the DRC, Ethiopia and Somalia were among the 10 largest recipients of pooled funds every year between 2010 and 2014.

In 2014, East and Central African countries received US\$539 million from pooled funds – 63% of all pooled funding that year. Tanzania and Uganda were the only countries in the region not to receive funds via pooled funding mechanisms in 2014.

**Figure 6: Ten largest recipients of pooled funding, 2014**



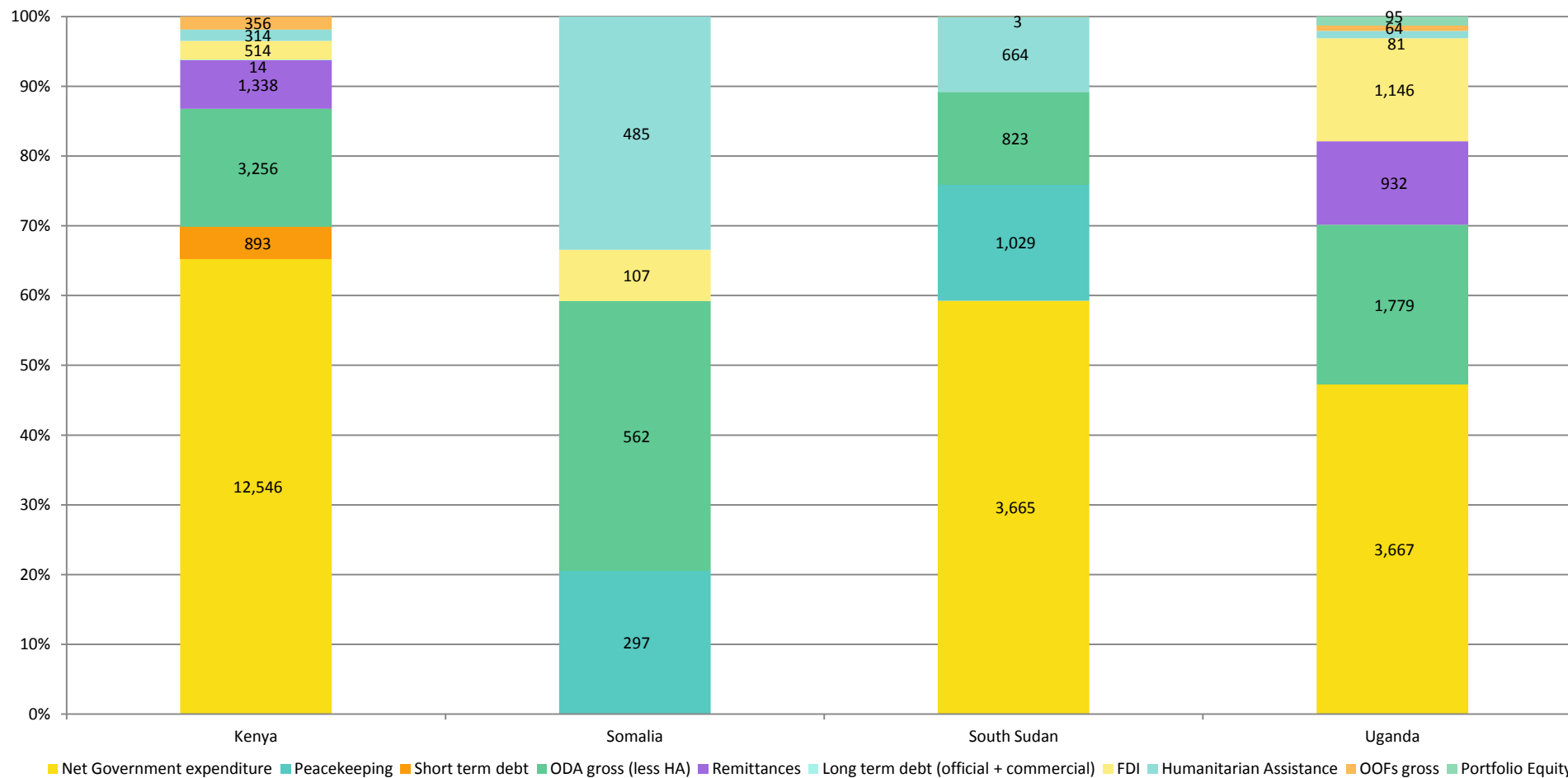
Source: Development Initiatives, based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data in constant 2013 prices.  
 Note: Data downloaded April 2015.

### What other finance matters?

Domestic public resources are the primary drivers of progress, but domestic capacity is often low where vulnerability to crises is high. Total domestic government expenditures in the largest country recipients of humanitarian assistance globally in 2013 were just PPP\$981<sup>v</sup> per person per year, compared with PPP\$2,444 per person per year in other developing countries. Available data shows that this figure varies considerably for countries in East and Central Africa: for example, government expenditure per person per year in Djibouti reached PPP\$917 in 2013, whereas spending per person per year in CAR was as low as PPP\$78.<sup>vi</sup> However, it should be noted that none of these totals gives an indication of how much is available or dedicated to crisis response and prevention.<sup>vii</sup>

For most countries, these total domestic public revenues and expenditures are higher than overall international resource flows to the country, but international resources are also important and they are growing. Flows to the largest humanitarian recipients in the world have more than tripled since 2000. The mix of these inflows varies substantially between countries. Somalia relies on official development assistance (ODA) and humanitarian assistance for 72% of its resources (US\$1.0 billion), whereas these resources account for only 24% of South Sudan’s inflows (US\$826 million). Of the four countries profiled in Figure 7, Uganda attracts the most foreign direct investment (FDI), in terms of both volume and proportion of the overall resource mix; the country received 15% of its total resources (US\$1.1 billion) through this inflow in 2013. Data on resource flows beyond ODA can be poor – and for some recipients, often those most affected by crises, such as South Sudan and Somalia, data is minimal, creating an inaccurate picture of the resources available. This highlights the importance of better data – on both vulnerabilities and finances – in some of the countries where needs are likely to be highest.

Fig 7: Resource mix to Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, 2013



Source: Development Initiatives, based on OECD DAC, UN OCHA FTS, UNCTAD, UN CERF, World Bank, IMF, WEO and SIPRI data.

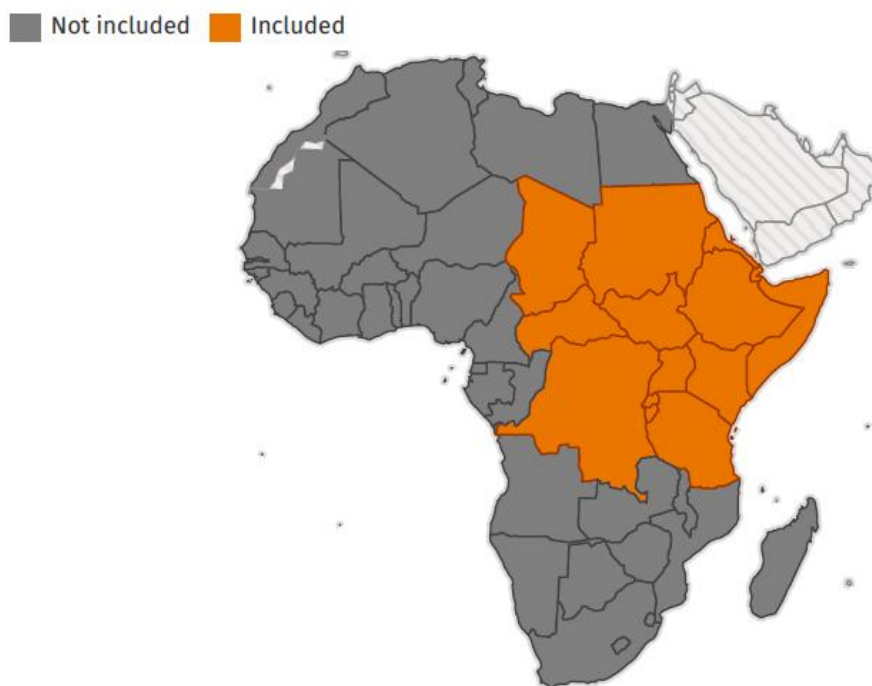
Notes: Data labels are in US\$ millions. Data for some resource flows are not available for all countries.

## Annex 1: East and Central African countries

For the purpose of this analysis, 'East and Central Africa' refers to the following countries: Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

These countries were chosen from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) East and Central Africa regions as the largest recipients of international humanitarian assistance, with the inclusion of South Sudan and Sudan.

For figure 1, the data and regional classifications are according to the OECD DAC. Further disaggregation is taken for East and Central Africa (as above), and Africa, other sub-Saharan countries. Africa, other sub-Saharan countries include: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkino Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Réunion, Saint Helena, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo.



<sup>i</sup> UNHCR (2015) 'World at War. UNHCR Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2014'. <http://unhcr.org/556725e69.html>

<sup>ii</sup> CRED, Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), available at: [www.emdat.be/database](http://www.emdat.be/database). Data downloaded April 2015.

<sup>iii</sup> For NGO classifications, see p.133 of the 'Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015' (GHA Report 2015).

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/GHA-Report-2015-Interactive-Online.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> Adeso (2015) 'The Demand for, Feasibility and Scope of a Global Network of Southern NGOs in Disaster Resilience, Response and Recovery'. [http://adesoafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/GlobalNetworkReport\\_April-2015.pdf](http://adesoafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/GlobalNetworkReport_April-2015.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> Purchasing power parity (PPP)

<sup>vi</sup> This range refers to 13 of the 14 countries in East and Central Africa; there is no data available for Somalia.

<sup>vii</sup> Additionally, where detailed data is available, there can be issues with the classification of expenditures by different governments, making it difficult to aggregate or compare data across countries.



### **UK office**

Development Initiatives, North Quay House  
Quay Side, Temple Back, Bristol, BS1 6FL, UK  
T: +44 (0) 1179 272 505

### **Kenya office**

Development Initiatives, Shelter Afrique Building,  
4th Floor Mamlaka Road, Nairobi, PO Box 102802-00101, Kenya  
T: +254 (0) 20 272 5346

### **Development Research and Training, Uganda**

Development Research and Training (DRT), Ggaba Road  
Mutesasira Zone, Kansanga, Kampala, PO Box 22459, Uganda  
T: +256 (0) 312 – 263629/30

---